

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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----- 107027

R 291302Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6865

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

MEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0754

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ON APPOINTMENT OF ARIEL

SHARON AS ADVISER TO PRIME MINISTER ON

NATIONAL SECURITY

REF: TEL AVIV 7256

1. AL-HAMISHMAR MAY 29 BROKE STORY THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN HAS ASKED ARIEL SHARON TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT AS HIS ADVISER ON NATIONAL SECURITY, OR ALTERNATIVELY, TO RETURN TO ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE.

2. STORY STATED THAT AGRANAT REPORT IMPLIED THAT NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF REPORT, RABIN DISCUSSED WITH SHARON POSSIBILITIES OF RETURNING TO ARMY, AND THEN FEW WEEKS AGO HE OFFERED SHARON POSITION OF NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, WHICH MIGHT BE FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHING NSC. STORY NOTED THAT CHIEF OF STAFF GUR, IN CONVERSATION WITH RABIN, OPPOSED RETURN OF SHARON TO ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE. EDFMIN PERES REPORTEDLY IS OPPOSED TO APPOINTMENT OF SHARON AS NATIONAL SECURITY

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ADVISER AS IT MAY UNDERMINE STATUS OF CHIEF OF STAFF GUR.

3. PICKING UP AL-HAMISHMAR STORY, BOTH AFTERNOON PAPERS ADDED TO THE SPECULATION,MAARIV REPORTED THAT SHARON HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT, WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO CABINET JUNE 1. SHARON REFUSED TO CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT. YEDIOT REPORTED THAT CIRCLES CLOSE TO PRIME MINISER REFUSED TO COMMENT, WHILE DEFMIN SOURCES SAID THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL WHEN HE RESIGNED KNESSET DEC 15, 1974, TO ACCEPT SENIOR APPOINTMENT IN MILITARY RESERVES, SHARON HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO RETURN TO ARMY FOR SOMETIME AFTER FRUSTRATING EXPERIENCE AS KNESSET MEMBER AND LIKUD POLITICIAN. IT WILL BE INTERSTING TO SEE WHETHER RABIN WILL REJECT REPORTED RESERVATIONS OF GUR AND PERES--WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE ACCURATE-- AND INVITE CRITICISM OF DOVISH FACTIONS OF HISCOALTION WHO WOULD BE CRITICAL OF ASSIGNING SHARON TO IMPORTANT SECURITY ADVISROY POSITION. FACT THAT MAPAM - CONTROLLED AL-HAMISHMAR BROKE STORY COULD POSSIBLY SUGGEST THAT OPPONENTS OF SHARON HOPED TO KILL APPOINTMENT BY PROVIDING OPPOSING FORCES TIME TO ORGANIZE EFFORTS TO BLOCK OPPONENT.
VELIOTES

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